

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) In a computerized environment, a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving a first document containing first document data and a link to a second document, wherein the second document contains second document data;

parsing the first document data into one or more first document segments;

identifying at least one of the one or more first document segments as ~~an alias~~ a first document alias that correlates with a first document datum found in an alias directory service;
and

associating the received first document with the first document alias so that, upon request for the first document datum through a search engine, the received first document is returned to ~~the requester~~ a requester by association of the first document datum with the alias: first document alias;

parsing the second document data into one or more second document segments;

identifying at least one of the one or more second document segments as a second document alias that correlates with a first document datum found in the alias directory service;
and

associating the received second document with the second document alias so that, upon request for the second document datum through the search engine, the received second document is returned to the requester by association of the second document datum with the second document alias.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first document data are metadata, and wherein the first document alias is a document metadatum.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the alias directory service is a contact database containing one or more aliases for one or more terms associated with one or more corresponding contacts.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying the document segment as part of a predefined class ~~or~~ and/or a class alias, so that a data request through ~~a search engine~~ the search engine returns the requested data to the requester when the requester enters ~~one or more of~~ a the identified class, the class alias, ~~and~~ and/or the alias.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the predefined class and/or class alias is ~~one or more of~~ a weighted value for one or more associated terms, a metadata concept, ~~and~~ and/or a property type.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising associating a term in an inverted index with ~~one or more of~~ a the identified alias ~~and~~ and/or the predefined class ~~or~~ and/or class alias; and
storing the inverted index for use by ~~a search engine~~ the search engine.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the property type is an authorship property.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a classification module further implements the method comprising:
identifying a next document containing next document data that can be identified with the class, whereby the class comprises at least the document containing document data and the next document containing next document data; and
based on the document data and the next document data, identifying additional documents within the class, so that the classification module is trained to associate additional documents with the class that would not have otherwise been identified.

10. (Currently amended) In a computerized environment, a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising:

an act of receiving a first document containing first document data and a link to a second document, wherein the second document contains second document data;

an act of parsing the first document data into one or more first document segments; ~~and~~
an act of receiving the second document containing second document data;

an act of parsing the second document data into one or more second document segments;

and

a step for normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property ~~or~~ and/or alternative search term property.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, ~~wherein the step for improving future search results~~

~~returned to a requester of a requested term includes~~ further comprising:

following the link to the second document;

an act of identifying at least one of the first document segments as an alias for a document datum found in an alias directory service; and

an act of associating the received first document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through ~~a search engine~~ the search engine, the received first document is returned to the requester by association with the alias.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving, by a gatherer module, directory service data that include one or more aliases for a metadatum.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising parsing the directory service data; and associating the parsed data with one or more classes so that one or more documents are related by one or more corresponding classes and one or more metadata

aliases.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving a first document containing first document data and a link to a second document, wherein the second document contains second document data;

parsing the first document data into one or more first document segments;

identifying at least one of the one or more first document segments as an alias a first document alias that correlates with a first document datum found in an alias directory service;
and

associating the received first document with the first document alias so that, upon request for the first document datum through a search engine, the received first document is returned to the requester a requester by association of the first document datum with the alias. first document alias;

parsing the second document data into one or more second document segments;

identifying at least one of the one or more second document segments as a second document alias that correlates with a first document datum found in the alias directory service;
and

associating the received second document with the second document alias so that, upon request for the second document datum through the search engine, the received second document is returned to the requester by association of the second document datum with the second document alias.

16. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first document data are metadata, and wherein the first document alias is a document metadatum.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the alias directory service is a contact database containing one or more aliases for one or more terms associated with one or more corresponding contacts.

19. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising identifying the first document segment as part of a predefined class ~~or~~ and/or a class alias, so that a data request through ~~a search engine~~ the search engine returns the requested data to the requester when the requester enters ~~one or more of~~ the identified class, the class alias, ~~and~~ and/or the alias.

20. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the predefined class and/or class alias is ~~one or more of~~ a weighted value for one or more associated terms, a metadata concept, ~~and~~ and/or a property type.

21. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising associating a term in an inverted index with ~~one or more of~~ the identified alias and the predefined class ~~or~~ and/or class alias; and storing the inverted index for use by ~~a search engine~~ the search engine.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the property type is an authorship property.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein a classification module further implements the method comprising:

identifying a next document containing next document data that can be identified with the class, whereby the class comprises at least the document containing document data and the next document containing next document data; and

based on the document data and the next document data, identifying additional documents within the class, so that the classification module is trained to associate additional documents with the class that would not have otherwise been identified.

24. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising:

an act of receiving a first document containing first document data and a link to a second document, wherein the second document contains second document data;

an act of parsing the first document data into one or more first document segments; and

an act of receiving the second document containing second document data;

an act of parsing the second document data into one or more second document segments;

and

a step for normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property ~~or~~ and/or alternative search term property.

25. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 24, ~~wherein the step for improving future search results returned to a requester of a requested term includes~~ further comprising:

an act of following the link to the second document;

an act of identifying at least one of the first document segments as an alias for a document datum found in an alias directory service; and

an act of associating the received first document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through ~~a search engine~~ the search engine, the received document is returned to the requester by association with the alias.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising receiving, by a gatherer module, directory service data that include one or more aliases for a metadatum.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising parsing the directory service data; and associating the parsed data with one or more classes so that one or more documents are related by one or more corresponding classes and one or more metadata aliases.

28. (Canceled)